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Commissioners study office move

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For the past 23 months, the former Lake County Minimum Security Facility in Painesville Township has been empty.

Lake County commissioners now plan to further study whether it is feasible to move part of the county Utilities Department's operation into the vacant building at 2205 Blase Nemeth Road.

Right now, the Utilities Department is located in the second and third floor of the county administration building, 105 Main St. in Painesville.

Commissioners last week approved a resolution to enter into an engineering agree-

ment with Burgess & Niple Inc., which has an office in Painesville.

The old jail operated for more than eight years until it closed Dec. 14, 2009, because of budget cuts.

Commissioner Daniel P. Troy said officials want to see if a move would be feasible and what would need to be done to relocate the Utilities Department's engineering department, billing office and other parts of the operation.

"What we're doing here is we're going to enter into an agreement with Burgess & Niple to take a look at the

Sheriff's multipurpose facility, which has not been operational for some time," Troy said.

The former jail has about 15,194 square feet of space available.

That could give the Utilities Department some breathing room as the department is tightly packed into the second and third floors, officials said.

Another reason for the move is the building sits on property adjacent to the Utilities Department's training center building and the Lake County Solid Waste Facility.